

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 stand rejected. Claims 1-40 remain pending in this patent application. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the remarks set forth below. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the specification and claims do not add new matter to the application.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12-14, 17, 23-25, 28-30, 33-37 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brick et al., US Patent Number 6,172,620 (hereinafter Brick). The Applicants have reviewed the Brick references and, for the following rationale, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by the Brick reference.

CLAIMS 1, 17 and 30

Applicants respectfully assert that the Brick reference fails to teach or suggest a removable button module as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 17 and 30. For instance, amended Claim 1 recites in part (emphasis added):

wherein said removable button module is for removably attaching to said portable computing device to cover said button of said portable computing device, said membrane layer disposed over said button frame module when said removable button module is attached to said portable computing device.

Applicants respectfully contend that the Brick reference does not teach or suggest a removable button module having a membrane layer disposed over the button frame module as specifically recited in amended Claims 1, 17 and 30. Since the Brick reference fails to teach or suggest an element recited within amended Claims 1, 17 and 30, Applicants respectfully assert that the Brick reference cannot anticipate the present invention recited in amended Claims 1, 17 and 30.

Based on the above rationale, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 17 and 30 are not anticipated by the Brick reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 1, 17 and 30 are allowable over the Brick reference.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of rejected Claims 1-40.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Catale", written over a horizontal line.

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